

1115

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION: SecState WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ BUENOS AIRES 6020

Ref: Buenos Aires 5675

1. Papal Nuncio informed us this morning that one of the Cordoba seminarians has been released. Nuncio said he had been so informed by Army Chief of Staff Viola last night. Viola had further indicated that he and Third Corps Commander General Menendez are working to expedite the case and they expect that the other seminarians with the exception of the Chilean will be released soon.

2. Nuncio cautioned that Chilean seminarian is "a rascal who has been guilty of passing bad checks." Nuncio said Church authorities here do not intend to exercise any further good offices on latter's behalf.

HILL

CONS: WHitchcock

CONTROL 4716
19 JUL 76 1802

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: Ambassador's Call on Interior Minister

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC PRIORITY

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 4716

LIMDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR HILL (approved by him for transmission prior to his departure for US on July 18)

AMB
CHARGE
POL-3
POL/R
ECOM
SY
CHRON

1. On July 15 accompanied by the Legal Attache I called on Min of Interior Harguindeguy. The purpose of my call was to again impress upon the Minister the seriousness of the question of human rights violations. Rather than raise the question directly, I referred to possible security risks to a large medical convention which is to be held here in 1977 as a means of leading into the subject of terrorism in Argentina.

2. In answer to my question, the Min said that GOA has scored important successes against terrorists and that by March of next year the terrorist problem will be behind us. However, he said, he expected serious trouble between now and the first of September. He pointed out that the Montoneros and the ERP are coming together as one terrorist group and they are very

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POL:WSSmith:cc

DRAFTING DATE

7/19/76

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

CHARGE:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

LEGATT:RScherrer (in draft)

well armed. He indicated, for example, that the ERP reportedly has some 5,000 sophisticated incendiary devices purchased in Germany in 1973 (which, however, may now be too old to be effective). The Minister felt that the weeks just before and after "Trelew Day", August 22, would be the most dangerous period.

3. The Minister said he was in control of the security forces, and the new Police Chief General Ojeda is his man. He remarked, however, that the Embassy must understand that it is hard to control all units of the police and military, and that actions such as the killing of the priests could happen.

4. I pointed out that while this might be so, the deaths of the priests and of Anthony Puente (son of a long time Embassy employee) are very hard to explain in the US.

5. The Minister did not take me up on these incidents; rather, he changed the subject by referring to a recent Barrons' article comparing Beirut with Buenos Aires. He said this was very unfair, and noted that Amb Musich has been instructed to invite two or three Barrons' reporters to Buenos Aires to take a look for themselves.

concluding
6. In ~~conclusion~~ the discussion of the security situation, the Minister assured me that ERP and Montonero leaders, ~~respectively~~, Santucho and Firmenich, are in Argentina and that the GOA is bending all efforts to apprehend them.

Classification

7. Comment: In my contacts with the Minister there has always been a good give and take. On this occasion, I believe he appreciated my expression of appreciation to him for the role he played in expelling the three drug traffickers to the US. I am positive that the government has made up its mind to use all means at its disposal to eliminate the terrorists once and for all, but those in government are likely to turn a deaf ear to advice from abroad on the topic. Rightly or wrongly, the government is convinced that it is threatened by a Communist takeover and therefore must defeat the terrorists at all costs.

CHAPLIN *me*~~SECRET~~

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CONTROL: 4683
16 JUL 76 1816

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM

AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

GDS

PFOR, AR, OAS, XM

Call on Foreign Minister Guzzetti

ACTION:

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

Info:

AmEmbassy MONTEVIDEO

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 4683

AMB
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USDAO
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1. Ambassadors Hill and Ryan, accompanied by Political Counselor, called on Foreign Minister July 15. Ambassador Ryan opened conversation by extending greetings from Department of State and asking if Foreign Minister had any follow on observations now that dust had settled from OAS meeting in ~~XXXXX~~ Santiago.
2. Foreign Minister replied affirmatively: Argentina, he said, is very interested in matter of OAS reform. The more he looks into the matter, the more he is convinced reform is badly needed. Obviously, however, change must be brought about carefully and as a result of wide consultations. Argentina is studying the whole question in detail and at some time between now and the meeting early next year would like to consult and exchange views on the matter with the US.

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AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL

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The Minister indicated that the desired changes must be agreed to in advance by major participants and not left for negotiations at Lima.

3. In general review of Argentina's "new foreign policy" (i.e., in wake of March 24 coup), Guzzetti said Argentina is concentrating first on strengthening its ties with neighboring country (which was also main thrust of ex-Foreign Minister Quijano's efforts). In this context, Guzzetti mentioned that security/intelligence forces of the Southern Cone, in an effort to combat more effectively "internationalized terrorism," are cooperating to a greater extent than in the past. For example, he said, services are now pooling much of their information on individuals suspected of being subversives and coordinating efforts against international terrorism.

4. In concluding interview, Ambassador Hill informed Foreign Minister he would be away from post on leave and consultations in US for several weeks. Foreign Minister asked both Ambassadors Hill and Ryan to carry his warmest greetings to Secretary Kissinger.

5. Comment: It is surprising that Guzzetti raised matter of increased coordination of effort on part of Southern Cone security forces--~~the~~ though it has been obvious for some time that such coordination existed. Guzzetti gave impression of greater command of subjects than he has in past, perhaps suggesting that he is beginning to settle in and get handle on business of international politics after years of commanding submarines.

HILL *PH*

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